

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, SA, OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR BOYCOTT HEARING

FOR SOBER (NEA) FROM ATHERTON

REF: STATE 55027 (TOSEC 348)

1. FOLLOWING ARE MY COMMENTS ON SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS
AND ANSWERS AS TRANSMITTED REFTEL.

A. - NO CHANGE.

B. - NO CHANGE.

C. - SUGGEST ANSWER BE REVISED AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE: NO.

WE WOULD, OF COURSE, MAKE CERTAIN SUCH AN OFFICER WAS
AWARE OF THE POLICY OF THE COUNTRY CONCERNED. THE
MORE LIKELY POSSIBILITY IS THAT WE WOULD HAVE NO JEWISH
CANDIDATES. IN OUR EXPERIENCE, JEWISH OFFICERS AS A GENERAL
RULE HAVE NOT SOUGHT ASSIGNMENTS TO COUNTRIES WHOSE
POLICIES WERE DISCRIMINATORY AGAINST JEWS. THE
DEPARTMENT WOULD NOT PREVENT SUCH ASSIGNMENTS, BUT IT
IS AWARE AS ARE ITS OFFICERS OF THE DISADVANTAGE SERVING
IN A COUNTRY HOSTILE TO JEWS, ASSUMING THEY COULD OBTAIN
VISAS AND BE ADMITTED TO THAT COUNTRY. IF A JEWISH
EMPLOYEE SOUGHT ASSIGNMENT TO A POST IN A COUNTRY WHICH

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EXCLUDED PERSONS OF JEWISH FAITH BUT FOR WHICH HE WAS

THE BEST QUALIFIED, WE WOULD MAKE THE ASSIGNMENT. IF THE GOVERNMENT OF THAT COUNTRY THEN REFUSED A VISA TO THAT PERSON, WE WOULD OBJECT TO THAT ACTION. HOWEVER, WE WOULD HAVE NO WAY OF FORCING THE ASSIGNMENT. I SHOULD NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT NO GENERALIZATIONS ARE POSSIBLE ON THIS SUBJECT. FROM PERSONAL RECOLLECTION AND ASSOCIATION, WE KNOW THAT THERE HAVE BEEN AMERICAN PERSONNEL OF JEWISH FAITH ASSIGNED FROM TIME TO TIME IN ARAB COUNTRIES.

D. - NO CHANGE

E. - NO CHANGE

F. - SUGGEST REVISING ANSWER AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE: WE CANNOT CATEGORICALLY ANSWER THIS QUESTION BECAUSE OUR PERSONNEL RECORDS DO NOT INDICATE THE RELIGIOUS CONVICTIONS OF INDIVIDUAL OFFICERS. TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, HOWEVER, THERE ARE NO JEWISH OFFICERS IN SAUDI ARABIA AND PROBABLY NONE HAS SERVED THERE. I ASSUME THAT JEWISH FSO'S HAVE RARELY, IF EVER, SOUGHT ASSIGNMENT IN SAUDI ARABIA BECAUSE OF OBVIOUS AND JUSTIFIED CONCERN THAT PROFESSIONALLY AND SOCIALLY, THEY WOULD BE SEVERELY HAMPERED IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR OFFICIAL DUTIES. END QUOTE.

G. - NO CHANGE.

H. - NO CHANGE.

2. RE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWER IN PARA TWO REFTEL, I WOULD SUGGEST REVISION AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE:

IT IS DIFFICULT TO KNOW HOW MANY COMPANIES HAVE DECLINED COMPLIANCE WITH THE BOYCOTT WHO WOULD OTHERWISE HAVE DONE SO IN THE ABSENCE OF EXISTING LEGISLATION. IT IS MY IMPRESSION, HOWEVER, THAT THE ACT HAS SERVED A USEFUL PURPOSE IN MAKING THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES KNOWN TO AMERICAN COMPANIES. END QUOTE. REMAINDER OF ANSWER, BEGINNING QUOTE: I WOULD DEFER ... END QUOTE REMAINS UNCHANGED.

KISSINGER

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